



Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center 2016 Annual Report



Contents

Mission Statement	3
Summary	4
Workload Summary	4
Weather	5
Pecos Zone WildCAD Incidents	6
WildCAD Incident History.....	7
Large Fires	7
10-Year Fire Summary.....	8
Fires by Statistical Cause.....	10
Prescribed Fire Accomplishments.....	11
Multiple Objective Fires	12
Lincoln National Forest	12
Crews.....	13
Regular Agency Type 1 Crew Assignments	13
Regular Agency Type 2IA and Type 2	13
Pecos Zone Type 3 Team.....	14
Logistical Activity.....	14
Mobilization	15
Resource Orders.....	15
Training	16
Sierra Blanca Wildland Fire Academy	16
Southwest Area Priority Trainee Program	16
Aircraft	17
Alamogordo Air Tanker Base	17
Roswell Air Tanker Base.....	17
Local Incident Aircraft Use by Type.....	17
SAFECOMS.....	18

Mission Statement

Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center (ADC) strives to provide safe, efficient, and cost-effective mobilization and demobilization of emergency resources. Operational goals include:

- To promote efficient operations through interagency cooperation and standardized procedures.
- To be equally responsive to all the agencies that we serve.
- WE WILL:
 - Identify incident priorities according to Zone priority criteria regardless of agency.
 - Define the "closest" resource regardless of boundary or ownership and utilize as appropriate through cooperative agreements.
 - Recognize agency specific requirements, i.e. pre-suppression orders, special equipment requests, skills requests, etc.
 - Recognize sensitive, political, or special issues and follow through to minimize their impact on current operations.
 - Provide timely communications on information and decisions which affect the interagency community.
 - Give all agencies and dispatch centers equal consideration in filling resource requests.

Summary

This report summarizes the 2016 fire season within the Pecos Zone (PEZ) and Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center (ADC) Initial Attack area.

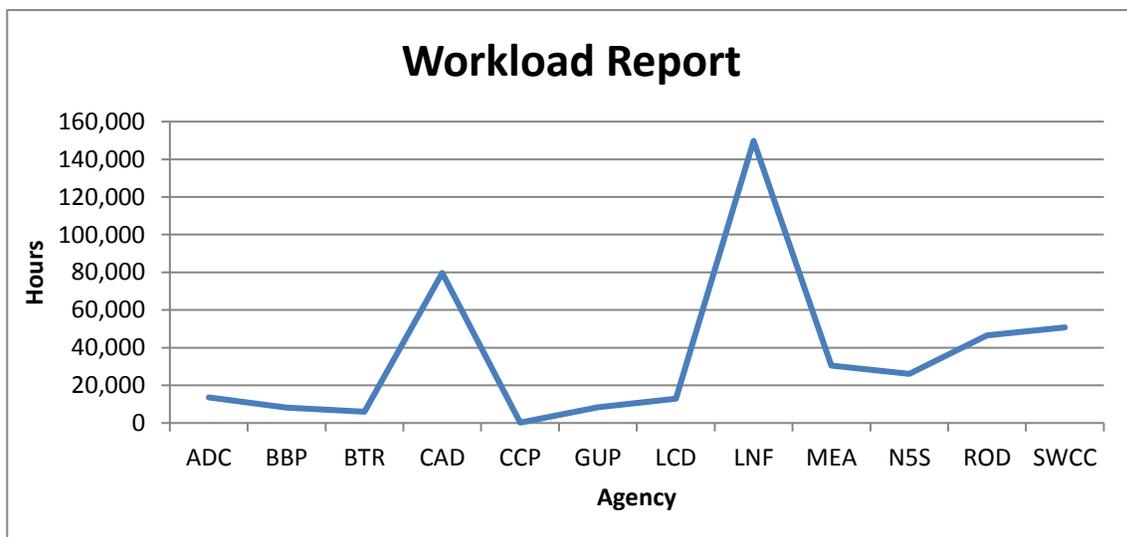
ADC's initial attack area consists of federal, state, and private lands protected by the Lincoln National Forest Service, Pecos District BLM, Las Cruces District BLM, BIA Mescalero Agency, New Mexico State Forestry Capitan District, Bitter Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, San Andreas National Wildlife Refuge, White Sands National Monument, Chamizal National Memorial, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Big Bend National Park, and Amistad National Recreation Area.

The first fires in the Pecos Zone for 2016 occurred in January with 3 fires for 78.2 acres. Fire season peaked between May and July with 120 fires occurring during those three months. The fire season ended with a total of 328 fires for 66,360.838 acres. Alamogordo Dispatch continued to be very busy assisting with a total of 669 incidents.

Alamogordo Dispatch Operated in Initial Attack moving to 7 day coverage on March 6, 2016. Expanded dispatch operated for a total of 51 Days in support of Moon Mountain fire, Coyote Fire and the Timberon Fire.

Workload Summary

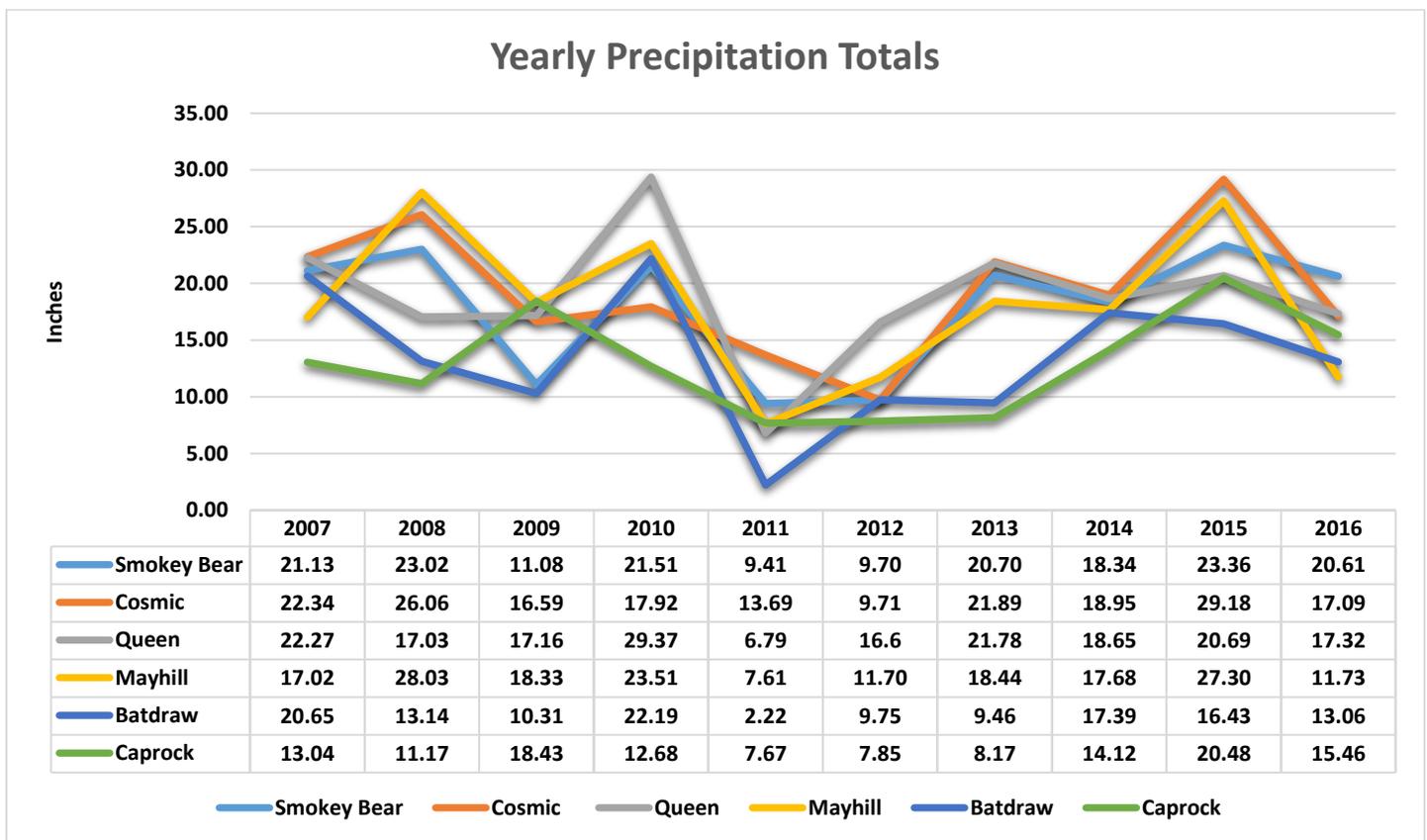
The WildCAD program used by ADC tracks the number of hours dispatchers spend working on specific incidents. In 2016, ADC dispatchers spent a total on 432,343 hours on open incidents within the WildCAD program. Below is a breakdown of how many hours were spent on incidents by agency.



Weather

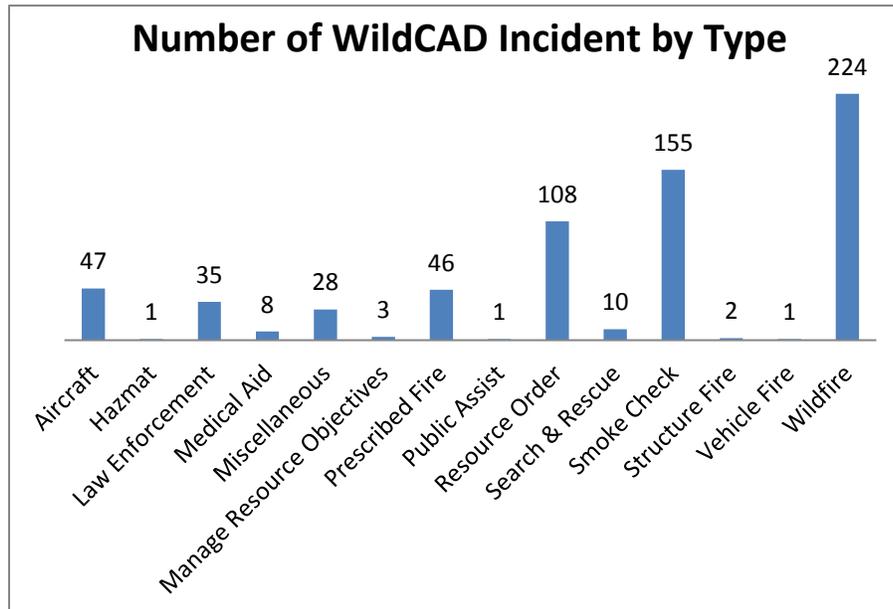
In 2016, we experienced a varying weather pattern somewhat different from what has occurred in the past. Zone wide started off with some heavy snow in the mountains and East side. As we moved more into spring and fire season the area started to dry out somewhat. Spring winds were not as consistent as they were in the past years and seemed to usher in pulses of moisture to keep the edge off of fire season. As we moved into the monsoon season, the zone received very spotty moisture to start with, which allowed fire season in some areas to be extended a little more than what is usually expected. By the end of July and first part of August, most areas had received enough moisture to be out of fire season. To close, the year of 2016 late fall and early winter have been relatively dry.

Rain events began in August with the zone RAWs stations showing a fair amount of moisture across the zone. Total precipitation (inches) for August pulled from RAWs stations: Cosmic 5.21, Smokey Bear 5.13, Queen 8.09, Mayhill 2.94, Batdraw 6.69, and Caprock 10.45. These 6 RAWs stations totaled 95.27 inches of rain for 2016 compared to 137.44 inches in 2015.



Pecos Zone WildCAD Incidents

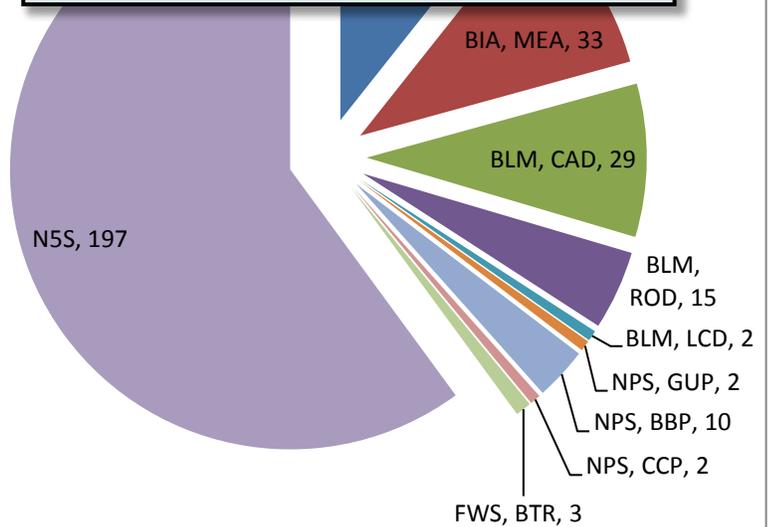
In 2016, Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center (ADC) handled 669 local incidents with 224 of those being Wildfires (1/1 thru 12/31). Aside from Wildfires, the second highest number of incidents were smoke checks.



2016	FIRES	ACRES
USFS –LNF Lighting	20	741.35
USFS – LNF Human	15	60.65
N5S Lighting	69	16,566.76
N5S Human	128	31,102.06
BLM Lighting	19	1,276.60
BLM Human	27	225.05
NPS Lighting	10	13,909.53
NPS Human	4	1,556.20
FWS Lighting	3	13.35
FWS Human	0	0
BIA Lighting	13	8.9

BIA Human	20	900.038
--------------	----	---------

- 2016: 669 Incidents (01/01 – 12/31)
 - May - August
 - 416 Incidents (62%)
 - 62% of incidents occurred Between Mon - Thurs
 - 82% of incidents occurred between 0800 - 1700



WildCAD Incident History

- 2010: 432
- 2011: 976
 - 2012: 491
 - 2013: 516
 - 2014: 547
 - 2015: 495

Large Fires

NM State Forestry – Capitan District

NAME	SIZE	START	TEAM	DATES ASSIGNED	DAYS
------	------	-------	------	----------------	------

Moon Mountain	125	3/28	IMT-T3 –PEZ – Barta	3/28 – 4/1	5
Timberon	268	7/13	IMT-T3 – PEZ – Barta BUYING – Martinez (CA-ONCC)	7/13 – 7/23 7/15 – 7/17	11 3

NPS – Guadalupe Mountains National Park

NAME	SIZE	START	TEAM	DATES ASSIGNED	DAYS
Coyote	13,592	5/07	IMT -T3 – PEZ – Barta	5/8 – 5/11	4
			IMT-T2-Team 3 – Sinclair	5/10 – 5/18	9
			BUYING – Team 2 – Evans	5/10 – 5/18	9
			IMT -T3 – PEZ – Barta	5/16 – 5/22	7
			IMT-T2-Team 2 -Andrews	5/24 – 6/1	9
			BUYING – Team 2 – Evans	5/25 – 5/31	7
			Admin Payment TEAM – Wilson (CA-SBCC)	5/25 – 6/1	8

10-Year Fire Summary

The tables below summarize the total number of fires and acres for the last 10 years for the land based agencies within the Pecos Zone.

USFS	Annual Fires	Annual Acres
2007	20	31
2008	37	20,953
2009	42	262
2010	34	320
2011	70	117,079
2012	32	40,574
2013	19	132
2014	28	109
2015	24	121
2016	35	802

2007	21	6,513
2008	65	35,246
2009	54	73,214
2010	75	2731
2011	130	75,991
2012	47	1,181
2013	20	81
2014	44	211
2015	58	2,341
2016	46	1,501

BLM	Annual Fires	Annual Acres
2007	14	53
2008	32	6,663

BIA	Annual Fires	Annual Acres
2007	14	53
2008	32	6,663

2009	27	6092
2010	16	3.5
2011	50	955
2012	39	32
2013	23	5
2014	30	56
2015	14	209
2016	33	909

2012	0	0
2013	0	0
2014	3	24
2015	1	1
2016	3	13

N5S	Annual Fires	Annual Acres
2007	226	61,006
2008	319	289,275
2009	299	124,625
2010	211	42,088
2011	532	620,273
2012	132	19,869
2013	64	721
2014	81	7,214
2015	125	2,457
2016	197	47,668

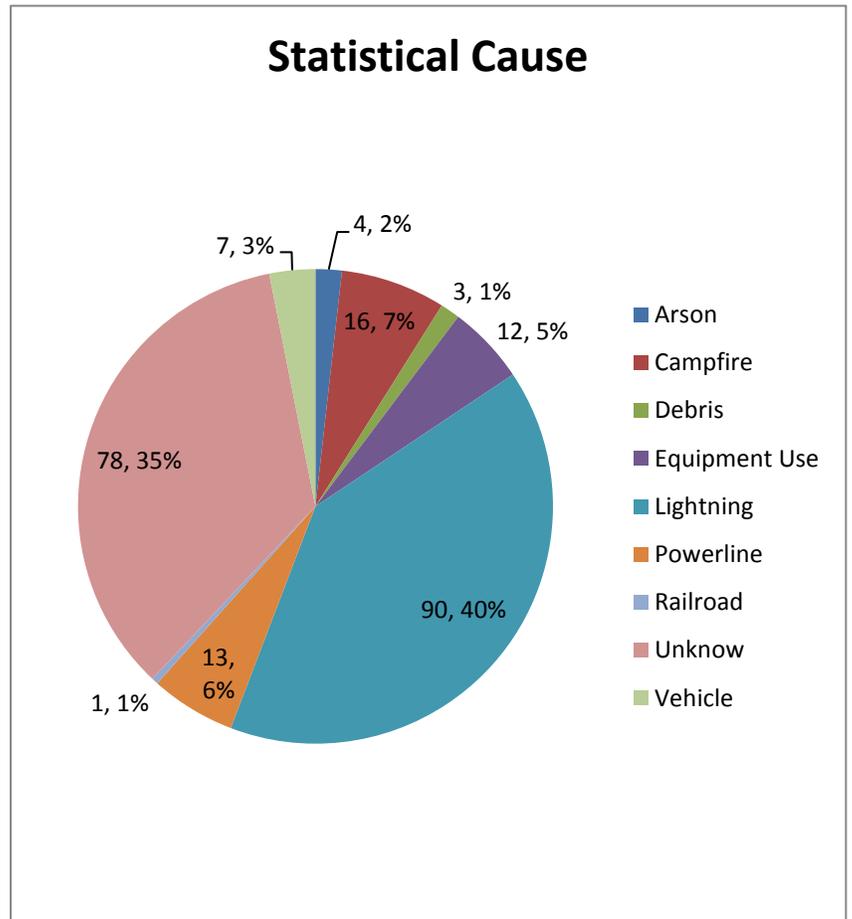
NPS	Annual Fires	Annual Acres
2007	8	2
2008	5	31
2009	8	24
2010	12	21,185
2011	6	32,713
2012	3	174
2013	4	27
2014	3	8
2015	8	92
2016	14	15,465

FWS	Annual Fires	Annual Acres
2007	0	0
2008	4	44
2009	2	1
2010	1	1
2011	2	101

Fires by Statistical Cause

In 2016, 60% of the season's fires within the Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center's initial attack area were human caused. There were numerous non-statistical fires (campfires still within the ring and not a threat), and numerous smoke checks that ended up being false alarms.

Statistical Cause Class	2016
Arson	4
Campfire	16
Debris	3
Equipment Use	12
Lightning	90
Powerline	13
Railroad	1
Unknown	78
Vehicle	7



Prescribed Fire Accomplishments

The Lincoln National Forest treated 2,983 acres with management-ignited burns during 2016. Carlsbad, Roswell and Las Cruces BLM treated 24,455 acres, FWS treated 2 acres, BIA treated 350 acres, and NPS treated 292 acres.



Hay Hollow RX – Carlsbad BLM
Photo by Matias Telles



McMillian RX – Carlsbad and Roswell BLM
Photo by Judith Ortega

Multiple Objective Fires

Lincoln National Forest

On May 31, 2016 a lightning caused fire was discovered 4 miles south of Glencoe, NM on the Smokey Bear Ranger district. The decision was made to manage the 588 Fire for multiple objectives. The fire burned 800 acres and was called out on July 8th, 2016.



Photo by Loretta Benavidez



Photo by Loretta Benavidez

Crews

Regular Agency Type 1 Crew Assignments

Smokey Bear IHC

The crew reported for duty on March 20th and spent 126 days assigned to incidents, in travel status or staging. Once available, Smokey Bear IHC performed on fire suppression assignments in New Mexico, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Texas, Arizona, Oregon and California.

Sacramento IHC

The crew reported for duty on March 21st and spent 102 days of the total 180 days available on incident assignments, pre-positioned or in travel status. Once available, Sacramento IHC performed on fire suppression assignments in New Mexico, Tennessee, North Carolina, Texas, Nevada and Idaho.

Regular Agency Type 2IA and Type 2

Mescalero BIA Type 2 and Type 2 IA crew responded to fire suppression assignments in New Mexico, Texas, Idaho, Alabama and Georgia.

	Type 2IA/Type 2
AGENCY	BIA – Mescalero
DATE OF FIRST ASSIGNMENT	3/29
NUMBER OF ASSIGNMENTS	8
OFF UNIT ASSIGNMENTS	5
DAYS COMMITTED	59

Big Bend National Park Los Diablos Type 2 and Type 2 IA crew responded to fire suppression assignments in New Mexico, Texas, California and Colorado.

	Type 2IA/Type 2
AGENCY	NPS – Big Bend Los Diablos
DATE OF FIRST ASSIGNMENT	2/1
NUMBER OF ASSIGNMENTS	6
OFF UNIT ASSIGNMENTS	4
DAYS COMMITTED	52

Pecos Zone Type 3 Team

During the 2016 fire season, the Pecos Zone Type 3 Team was dispatch to 3 fires within the Zone. In March the team spent 5 days on the Moon Mountain Fire in Ruidoso, New Mexico. In May, the team spent a total of 11 days on the Coyote Fire within the Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Their final assignment was in July on the Timberon fire located within the town of Timberon, New Mexico.

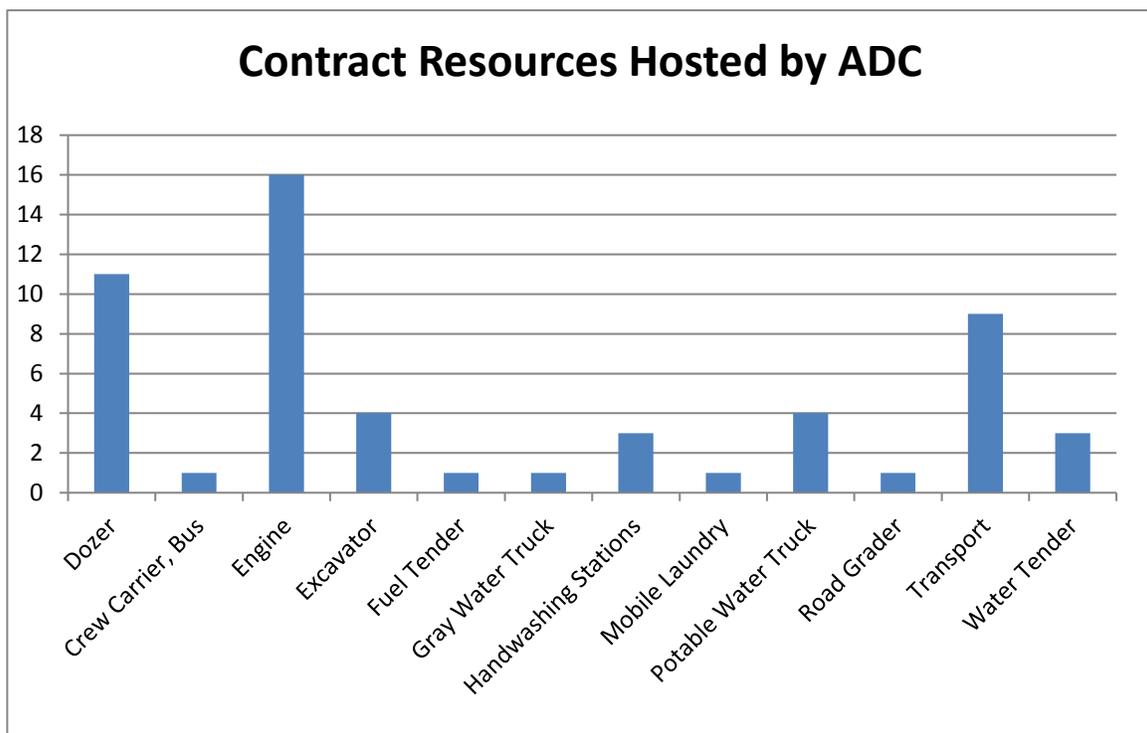
During the team’s assignments, one local ICT3 trainee had the opportunity to be signed off and qualified.

Logistical Activity

Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center hosts 685 overhead personnel representing the following agencies:

AGENCY	LNF	CAD	ROD	BTR	BDR	SNR	WHP	N5S	MEA	AMP	BBP	CHP	CCP	FDP	GUP
TOTAL # OF PERSONNEL	172	41	51	10	2	2	6	31	233	13	72	2	19	3	28

ADC hosted a total of 55 Contract Resources in 2016. The chart below provides a breakdown of resources by type.



Mobilization

The chart below shows the support Pecos Zone Resources gave to each geographic area. (Overhead orders include subordinate orders and rosters.)

	Alaska	Eastern Area	Great Basin	Northern California	Southern California	Northwest	Northern Rockies	Rocky Mountain	Southern Area	Southwest
OVERHEAD	2	20	92	50	93	35	81	92	207	1,363
CREW	0	1	2	0	3	1	0	1	9	44
EQUIPMENT	0	0	8	20	16	3	7	17	39	237

Resource Orders

Alamogordo Interagency Dispatch Center processed 5,272 orders for 2016. Below is a chart showing the breakdown of the type of work processed. In comparison, last year we processed 2,099 resource orders in 2015 and 4,575 orders in 2014.

	ENTER	DELETE	PLACE	RETRIEVE	FILL	UNFILL	REASSIGN	RELEASE	CANCEL	CANCEL UTF	UTF
AIRCRAFT	174	0	93	4	140	7	63	120	14	5	6
CREW	89	2	54	7	66	6	21	60	9	3	1
EQUIPMENT	436	25	105	21	413	24	23	387	61	4	56
OVERHEAD	2,622	17	1,180	84	2,071	41	647	1,866	59	31	159
SUPPLY	1,951	30	651	9	1,198	0	4	103	85	3	0
TOTAL	5,272	74	2,083	125	3,888	78	758	2,536	228	46	222

Training

Sierra Blanca Wildland Fire Academy

The Pecos Zone hosted two wildland Fire Academies in 2016. In February 2016, the SBWFA held 18 classes in 7 days. 305 students attended the academy from Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Colorado, Montana, Wisconsin and Oklahoma. 108 students were from the Pecos Zone and received training.

SBWFA hosted a new course called Incident within an Incident Management. The course was developed by an Arizona based company, All Hazard Medical Solutions, LLC. The intent of the training is to teach how to “successfully resolve medical incidents on wildland fires. This course represents the most advanced training available for successful mitigation of fireline and all-hazard medical incidents.” In attendance during the SBWFA were 11 students from the Pecos Zone who received the training.

In December 2016, the SBWFA once again hosted a 7 day academy and coordinated 22 courses. 324 students were in attendance from New Mexico, Texas, Oregon, Colorado, Idaho, and Arizona. 129 students from the Pecos Zone received training.

SBWFA partnered with ENMU Ruidoso Branch which allowed the Academy to expand and host more classes at the college campus. ENMU students were able to gain college credit towards their fire degrees through classes offered at the Academy. 12 veterans attended classes at the academy free of tuition charges.

Southwest Area Priority Trainee Program

In 2016, the Pecos Zone submitted 15 nomination to be part of the SWA Priority Trainee Program. This program aims to enhance an individual’s efforts obtain quality assignments and work on taskbook completion of predetermined NWCG positions. The 15 individuals who participated in the program went on a collective total of 19 assignments between them and 5 were able to have their taskbooks completed and finalized.

For 2017, 11 nominations were submitted for the SWA Priority Trainee Program.

Aircraft

Alamogordo Air Tanker Base

The Alamogordo Air Tanker Base supported local and national operations with 57 loads of retardant, equaling 129,187 gallons on fires this year. The first load of retardant was used March 7th and the last load of retardant was sent out on the 25th of July. Alamogordo hosted numerous types of aircraft throughout the fire season to include, Neptune’s P2V’s and BAE-146’s, Coulson’s C-130’s, SEATs, 4 different lead planes and 4 air attack platforms to include the national air attack training platform, a type one helicopter, and the type 2 helicopter from Douglas.

Alamogordo Air Tanker Base hosted a shared exclusive use Air Attack platform a King Air from Dynamic Aviation from the 1st of April until it was reassigned in the middle of June.

Roswell Air Tanker Base

Roswell Air Tanker Base opened April 6 in support of fires in the Southern Area. Between April 1 and September 30, ten aircraft were loaded with a total of 169,583 gallons.

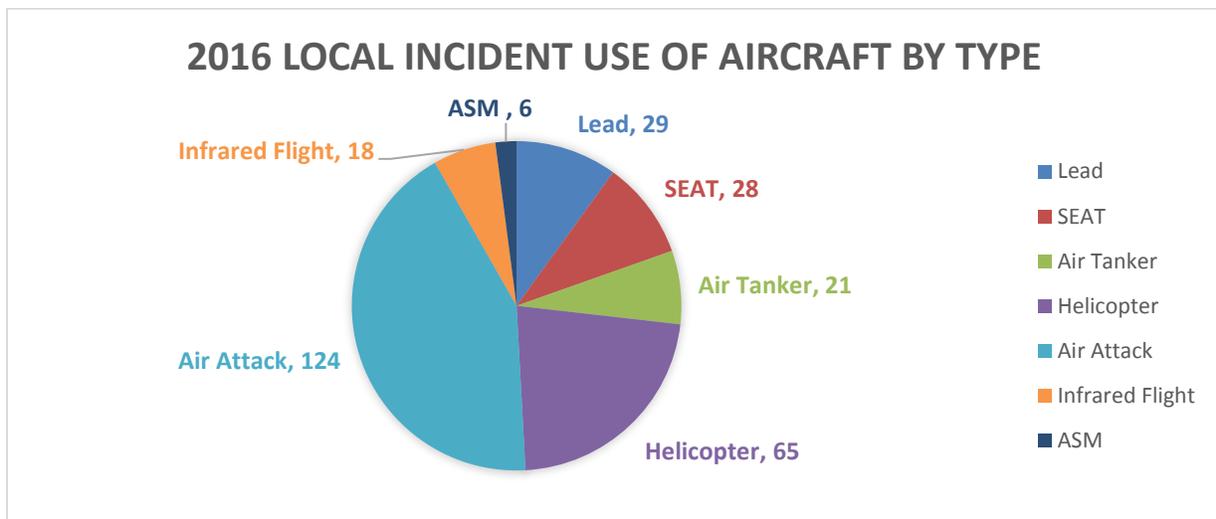
Two DOI exclusive use single engine air tankers went on contract May 13. T-813 flew 41 loads and T-814 flew 9 loads. Both SEATs were reassigned to OR on August 12.

A shared exclusive use Air Tactical Fixed Wing arrived on May 13.

Local Incident Aircraft Use by Type

In 2016, Alamogordo Dispatch flight followed 173 different aircraft which were ordered on local fires. Below shows a breakdown of the type of aircraft ordered for incidents within the Pecos Zone.

In support of aviation use within the zone, 7 TFRS were placed within the zone and 18 additional aviation frequencies were ordered.



SAFECOMS

During the 2016 fire season, 7 SAFECOMS were submitted for incidents occurring within the Pecos Zone.

DATE	LOCATION/INCIDENT	EVENT
5/6/2016	White Sands Regional Airport – Alamogordo NM	Airtanker – Mechanical issue
5/8/2016	Coyote Fire – Guadalupe Mountains National Park	Military Airspace Deconfliction
5/13/2016	Coyote Fire – Guadalupe Mountains National Park	Helicopter - Mechanical issue
5/20/2016	Coyote Fire – Guadalupe Mountains National Park	Helicopter – Hard Landing
5/20/2016	Coyote Fire – Guadalupe Mountains National Park	Helicopter – External sling load jettisoned
5/23/2016	White Sands Regional Airport – Alamogordo NM	Airtanker – Mechanical issue
7/13/2016	Rock Crusher Fire – Mescalero BIA	UAS spotted over incident while aircraft in use

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

The Pecos Zone saw for the first time during the 2016 fire season, the impact of unmanned aircraft systems on fire operations. During the Moon Mountain Fire located in Ruidoso New Mexico, a video of the fire was seen online taken by a UAS. Although the UAS was not within the Fire Traffic Area and a TFR was not in place at that time, aviation resources were notified of a UAS being seen in the area. The incident was used as a learning opportunity for the dispatch center on procedures and protocols.

The second UAS incident occurred on the Rock Crusher Fire on Mescalero BIA. During air operations a UAS was spotted over the fire by Air Attack. There was only one other air craft on scene at that time, a lead plane. Following protocol, the Air Attack informed the IC and Lead Plane. All aircraft were pulled off the fire at that time.

With two incidents occurring within the Zone and increased UAS activity nationwide, Alamogordo Dispatch performed an AAR concerning protocols and notification standards for UAS sightings and possible intrusions.